create awareness amongst potential overseas workers on their rights and obligations will be initiated.

Inhuman treatment with Indian labourers migrated in Gulf countries

3552. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Indian labourers migrated to Gulf countries are being subjected to inhuman treatment;

(b) if so, whether it is because of absence of any comprehensive migration policy;

(c) whether Government are considering for any comprehensive policy so that labourers are not faced with inhuman treatment in future; and

(d) if so, by when and in what manner the migration policy is being enacted?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Complaints regarding ill treatment and exploitation of workers as well as cases/disputes regarding service benefits, legal dues etc. are received from time to time. Action is taken through the Indian Missions to redress such grievances of workers and for the amicable settlement of disputes. However, those who take up employment overseas illegally after going there on visit visas are susceptible to exploitation and have no protection of law in the host country.

(b) to (d) Migration of Indian workers for overseas employment is governed by The Emigration Act, 1983. In order to further protect the interests of Overseas Indian workers, the Government is considering suitable amendments to the Act.

Elections to Panchayati Raj Institutions

†3553. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether timely elections for Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) are being held in all States;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor, State-wise;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether all the States have constituted State Election Commissions to hold these elections; and

(d) if so, the procedure of appointment of Election Commissioners of these Commissions?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Timely elections are being held in almost all the States. However, in Jharkhand, elections are pending as the matter relating to reservation of posts is *sub judice*. In Pondicherry, Panchayat elections are pending for want of information from the Office of the Registrar General of India pertaining to village panchayat-wise population for notifying the same for the purpose of allotment and rotation of seats and offices in Panchayats by the State Election Commission. In respect of other States, it may be mentioned that while the provisions of the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 do not apply in the States of Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland, and the State of Jammu & Kashmir is yet to adopt the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992. NCT of Delhi is, at present, not having Panchayats. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has been, from time to time, impressing upon States where elections have not been held or have been delayed to put in place elected Panchayati Raj Institutions.

(c) State Election Commissions have been set up and are in existence in all the States except Jammu & Kashmir where the functions of the State Election Commission are being discharged by the Chief Electoral Officer.

(d) The procedure for the appointment of State Election Commissioners is governed by the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution under Atricle 243 K(2) which reads as under:

243K(2)

"Subject to the provisions of any law made by the Legislature of a State the conditions of service and tenure of office of the State Election Commissioner shall be such as the Governor may by rule determine:

Provided that the State Election Commissioner shall not be removed from his office except in like manner and on the like ground as a Judge of a High Court and the conditions of service of the State Election Commissioner shall not be varied to his disadvantage after his appointment."